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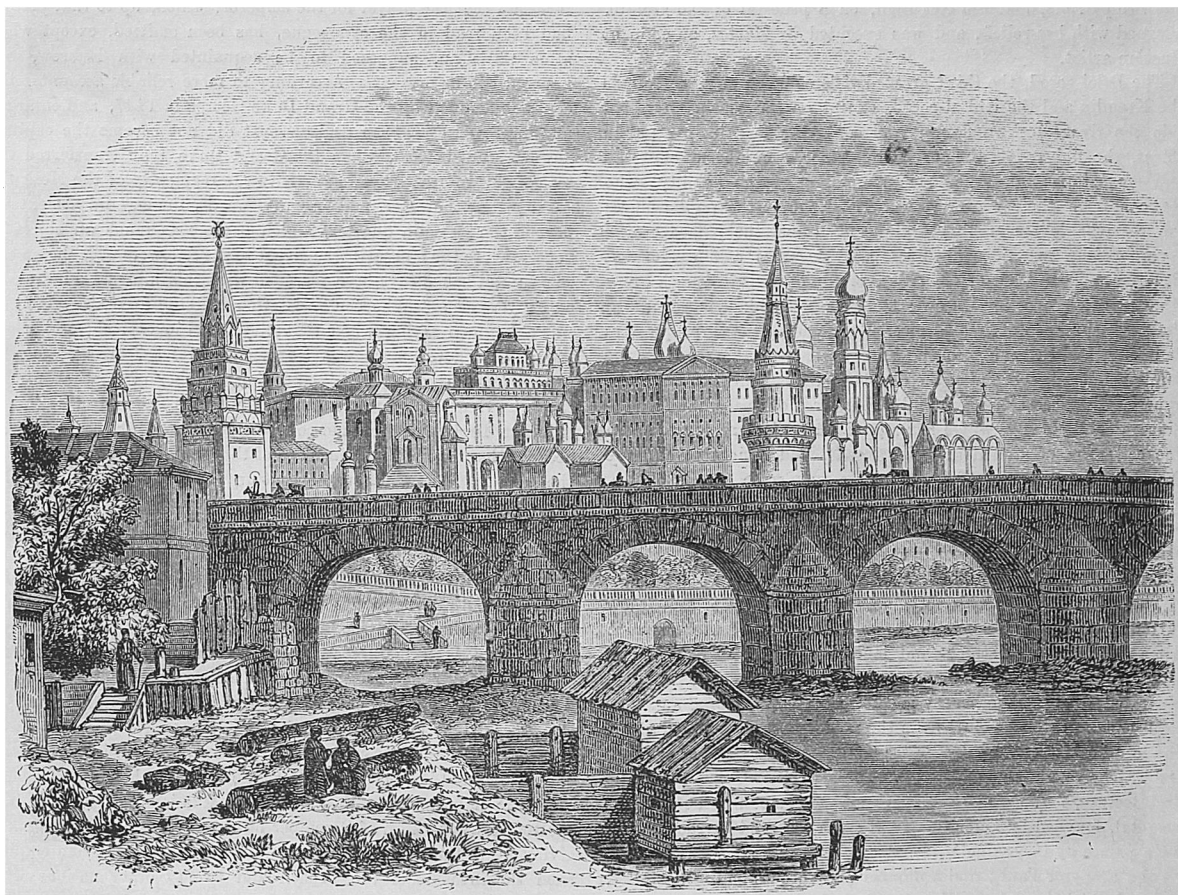
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M O S C O W.

Moscow, the holy city of Russia, and ancient capital of her czars, is one of the most considerable cities in Europe; for, though its population is less than that of St. Petersburg, its superficial extent is much greater. Its circumference is generally stated at twenty-five and a half English miles; but a large portion of this space is occupied by gardens, parks, promenades, and open fields for military exercises and fairs. The gardens belonging to the mansions of the aristocracy are very beautiful, and laid out with much taste; in summer, these and the parks and the public gardens add much to the pleasantness of the city, but in winter their aspect is cheerless in the extreme. Moscow presents a fine and somewhat oriental appearance from a little distance, especially in the summer, when the gilded cupolas of the numerous churches are relieved by the masses of green trees among which they rise. The cupolas are of a bulbous form, like those of the Pavilion at Brighton, and are

The Kremlin, the ancient palace and citadel of the Russian emperors, gives its name to the central quarter of the city, which is surrounded by immense stone walls, with battlements, towers, and gates. Besides the old and new palaces, this quarter contains the imperial museum, the arsenal, the treasury, the palace of the patriarch, and thirty-two churches. The old palace was built in 1367, but only a portion remains, which the present emperor has had completely repaired and re-decorated, and furnished in the style of the period when it was first erected. The new palace was first built in 1743; and having been destroyed in the great conflagration of 1812, it was rebuilt four years later by the Emperor Alexander. This building, however, was pulled down by order of Nicholas, who has had a new palace of remarkable extent and magnificence built opposite the old palace, which is to be incorporated with it. The treasury, which is attached to the Vosnesen-



THE CITY OF MOSCOW.

covered with tin, which, when not gilded, is painted green; it is the form of these cupolas, and the numerous towers and minarets, which give the city its peculiar appearance.

The tremendous conflagration of 1812, with the subsequent renovation and improvement of the city, has so altered its appearance, that the descriptions published previously to that epoch are no longer correct. "The extraordinary mixture and contrast of magnificent palaces and petty huts, so often noticed by foreigners," says Dr. Lyall, "though still occurring in a few places, no longer strikes the eye as formerly; Moscow is daily losing its Asiatic features, and assuming the appearance of the capitals of Western Europe. Happily for the lover of venerable antiquity, the Kremlin, which suffered comparatively little, notwithstanding the attempts of the French to blow it up, retains unimpaired its ancient irregularity and grandeur."

skoi Convent, contains the crowns, sceptres, arms, and drinking vessels, of the grand dukes and emperors, the value of which is said to exceed that of the collection in the Jewel Office of the Tower of London. In the church of the same convent a great number of empresses and grand duchesses are interred. The principal churches of the Kremlin quarter are that of the Assumption, where the emperors are crowned and anointed, esteemed the most splendid in Moscow; St. Michael's, which contains the tombs of the grand dukes and czars from the time when Moscow became the capital of the empire till the death of Peter the Great; that of the Annunciation, which is considered by some to excel all the rest in architectural beauty, though smaller than the preceding; and that of the Transfiguration, remarkable only for its antiquity, having been built in 1328. After the palaces and churches, the most striking object in the Kremlin quarter is the Ivanovskaya belfry, at the bottom of

which is the great bell, said to be the largest in the world, containing the enormous quantity of 360,000 lbs. of metal. This tower was destroyed by an explosion in 1812, but has been rebuilt in the same style, and is much admired for its height and architectural beauty.

The Khitai-gorod, also surrounded by a wall, with towers and gates, is the trading quarter of Moscow, and contains the bazaars and principal shops, besides linen, cotton, and woollen manufactories, iron and brass foundries, distilleries, paper mills, etc., most of which are under the superintendence of foreigners, chiefly English, Germans, and French. The chief public buildings in this quarter are the municipal hall, a very handsome edifice, and the printing-office of the holy synod, which contains thirty presses for printing theological works in Slavonian, and educational books in Greek, Latin, French, and German, for the schools under the control of the synod. In the Khitai-gorod is the monument erected by order of the Emperor Alexander in honour of Minin and Pogarski, who delivered Russia from foreign domination in the seventeenth century, and placed Michael Romanoff, the first monarch of the reigning dynasty, on the throne. It consists of bronze statues of the two patriots, fourteen feet high, on a pedestal of red granite, adorned with bas-reliefs, and was executed by Martos, an eminent Russian artist.

The Beloi-gorod, the third great division of the city, surrounds the Kremlin and the Khitai-gorod, except on the south, on which side the river Moskwa flows; and contains the principal public offices, the university, the governor's palace, a number of churches and monasteries, and the palaces of many of the nobility, who make Moscow their winter residence. None of the public offices are remarkable for architectural beauty; but the palace of the governor is a magnificent edifice, and occupies a fine elevated situation. The palace of General Apraxin exceeds in length every other private edifice in Moscow; but that of Pashkoff is considered the finest specimen of architecture. Surrounding the three quarters described, and extending to the opposite side of the river, is the Zemlianoi-gorod, containing the depôts of the commissariat and the imperial distilleries, the Imperial Philanthropic Society, the Medico-Chirurgical Academy, which has a good anatomical museum, and a fine collection of stuffed animals, fossils, and minerals; and the church and monastery of St. Anne, a handsome Gothic edifice, with a very splendid interior. This quarter was formerly surrounded by a rampart of earth, which no longer exists, the space being now planted with trees, so as to form a promenade entirely round the city, like the Boulevards of Paris.

The suburbs of Moscow form an irregular polygon, completely surrounding the Zemlianoi-gorod, on both sides of the Moskwa. Some parts consist of streets and lanes, in which superb mansions alternate with wretched hovels, while others are like villages, separated from each other by market-gardens, meadows, and even corn-fields. In the suburbs are the noble hospital, founded at the end of the last century by Prince Galitzin, and named after him; the extensive and magnificent hospital, in the Grecian style of architecture, founded in 1810 by Count Sheremetoff; the military hospital, founded by Peter the Great; the splendid barracks, built for a palace by Catherine II., and converted to its present purpose by the Emperor Paul; and a number of churches and monasteries, some of which are worthy the attention of travellers. The asparagus, grown in the suburban gardens, is celebrated all over Russia for its size and superior flavour.

The manufactures of Moscow have made considerable progress during the last fifty years. In 1808, the number of large manufactories of linen, woollen, cotton, silk, and leather goods, hats, paper, porcelain, and earthenware in the province, most of them in the capital, was 394, which, in 1830, had increased to 730. It is also a place of great trade, and, indeed, may be called the centre of the inland trade of the empire, as St. Petersburg is of the maritime trade. The annual value of the imports is estimated at five millions of roubles, or about £750,000. The population of Moscow is stated in the most recent accounts at 360,000.

The amusements of Moscow are not numerous. The principal theatre is a vast edifice, but very inferior, both in internal decoration and the character of the performances, to the imperial theatre at St. Petersburg. A tenth of the proceeds is appropriated to the support of the Foundling Hospital, founded by Catherine II. in the

year 1762. Concerts are given occasionally, but the chief resort of the aristocracy in the winter is the Assembly Rooms, where balls are given every Tuesday evening, from October to May, in a fine saloon, with an alceved ceiling, supported by a colonnade of Corinthian pillars, of white scagliola. Only members of the nobility have the *entrée*, the annual subscription being for gentlemen fifty roubles, married ladies twenty-five roubles, and unmarried ladies ten roubles. Fêtes are sometimes given at the Prunia Gardens, with music, and an illumination at night. For the humbler classes, there are low places of amusement, where the entertainments consist of singing and dancing, the performers being generally of the gipsy race.

According to Russian tradition, Moscow derives its name from Meshech, the son of Japheth, and grandson of the antediluvian patriarch, Noah, who settled on the spot shortly after the deluge. Until within a comparatively recent period, this idea was countenanced by the best biblical commentators; and a Jewish rabbi, about half a century ago, made this application of the passage:—"Woe is me, that I sojourn in Meshech!" In consequence of this, it is said that the prayer for the emperor, which, up to that period, had been read in the synagogue, has been omitted, except when some Christian, supposed to be acquainted with Hebrew, has happened to be present. According to more reliable accounts, the city was founded by the Grand Duke George in 1147, and enlarged and improved by his son Andrew. It did not become the capital, however, until 1328, when the Grand Duke Ivan transferred the seat of government from Vladimir to the rising city of the Moskwa. At this time, however, and long afterwards, the city did not extend beyond the Kremlin quarter, which became as much an object of veneration to the Muscovites as Mecca to the followers of Mahomed. The capital has always been regarded with this mingled admiration and reverence: "Who can resist God and the great Novgorod?" was a common saying when that city was the capital; and when the seat of government was transferred to Kief, that place was regarded as "the holy city," and the "mother of all the Russian cities." Hence Moscow has also been called "The Holy City," and more familiarly, "Mother Moscow," or sometimes "Stone Moscow," because the principal buildings are of that material, which is rarely the case in Russia, where, except in the large towns, even the churches are built of wood.

The history of Moscow embraces the usual series of fires, pestilences, famines, and tumults, common to most of the great cities of Europe. In the reign of Boris it was desolated by a famine so severe, that the inhabitants were reduced to cannibalism; and no city, except Constantinople, has been so often devastated by fire. These have been mainly owing, as in the case of the Turkish capital, to the general use of wood in the construction of dwelling-houses, great numbers of which are still built of that material. The tremendous conflagration of 1812, the effects of which have been already noticed, constitutes an important epoch in the history of Moscow, and is so used by the inhabitants in their calculations. With the importance of that event the Russians are so fully impressed, that the 25th of December has been made a day of thanksgiving for "the deliverance of the Church and the Russian empire from the invasion of the French and twenty other nations who came with them."

Out of Russia, the belief is general that the conflagration, which destroyed two-thirds of the city, was the work of the Russians themselves, and that it was ordered by Count Rostopschin, the governor of Moscow, in order to deprive the invaders of winter quarters, and compel them to retreat in that inclement season. The disastrous consequences to the French are too well known to need relating here; and it is absurd to suppose that they would have destroyed a city, upon their possession of which all their hopes of success depended. But in Russia the belief is general that the destruction of the city was the work of the invaders; and much indignation is manifested on the expression of a contrary opinion. That it is still attributed to the French is probably owing to the fact, that Alexander charged them with it at the time as a means of exciting the passions of the army and people against them; and to avow the truth now would be hardly decent. Count Rostopschin would never acknowledge that he was the author of the fire, and published a pamphlet in 1823, in which he positively

denies that it was the result of his orders. The truth, however, must be known to many of the upper classes, though policy has dictated its concealment; and, indeed, there are allusions in the works of Russian authors which leave little room for doubt. Karamzin, the historian and poet, has a tolerably plain avowal of the fact in a poem which has been thus translated by Dr. Bowring, in his "Russian Anthology:"—

"Proud city! Sovereign Mother thou
Of all Slavonian cities now;
Work of seven ages!—beauty once
And glory were around thee spread;

Toil-gathered riches blessed thy sons,
And splendid temples crowned thy head;
Our monarchs in thy bosom lie,
With sainted dust that cannot die.

Farewell! farewell! Thy children's hands
Have seized the all-destroying brands,
To whelm in ashes all thy pride.
Blaze! blaze! thy guilt in flames be lost,
And heaven and earth be satisfied
With thee, the nation's holocaust!
The foe of peace shall find in thee
The ruined tomb of victory."

THE SEAL.

WITH the exception of the whales and their allies, the seals, perhaps, at first sight exhibit a greater departure from our ordinary idea of *beasts* than any other mammalia. Although still undoubtedly quadrupeds, their legs are so completely enclosed within the skin of the body, that nothing but the feet project, and of these, the toes are united by skin, so as to form fins or paddles, adapted almost solely for the propulsion of the animal through the water. The position of the hind legs, too, is very singular: they are turned completely backwards, so as to form a sort of broad double-tail fin, very similar, both in appearance and action, to the tail fin of the whale. But in these, as in the fore feet, all the parts existing in the most perfect quadrupeds are to be recognised; whilst the tail of the whale is really a fin, and has nothing whatever to do with the hinder extremities. As might be supposed from the form of the limbs, the seals are by no means at home on dry land; when out of the water they flounder about in rather an awkward manner, by a wriggling action of the belly assisted by the fore paws. But in the water the fish-like form of their bodies and their powerful paddles render them very active; and in this, their native element, they swim and dive with great rapidity, in pursuit of the fishes and other marine animals which constitute their general food.

The common seal (*Phoca vitulina*), which is found in most seas, but is especially plentiful on the Arctic coasts, is of a yellowish-gray colour, usually covered with dusky or blackish spots. Its usual length is about three feet, but it sometimes measures as much as five or six. It has a rounded head, somewhat resembling that of a dog, whence it has obtained the name of "the sea-dog." The eyes are very large, soft, and black, giving it a most intelligent expression of countenance; it has no external ears, but the orifices are furnished with a valve, which the animal can close when under water, so as to prevent the ingress of that fluid. These animals are common on some parts of the British coast, but on the coast of Greenland they exist in innumerable herds, in spite of the destructive warfare that has been waged against them for ages, both by the native Esquimaux and by Europeans. To the latter the seal-fishery, as it is termed, furnishes only two products, oil and fur; but so indispensable is the seal to the very existence of the Greenlander, that it has been said that the sea is his field and the seal-fishery his harvest. The skin of the seal, when deprived of the long and rather coarse hair which forms its outer coat, furnishes a soft downy fur of a light brown or fawn colour, which was formerly in considerable repute in England for making caps, great-coat collars, waistcoats, slippers, and similar articles of winter comfort; but it provides the Greenlander with the whole of his clothing; and to a people who depend so much on a seafaring life for their subsistence, its capability of resisting water is not one of its least desirable qualities. The oil, which is used in Europe only for burning in lamps, not merely serves this purpose amongst the Esquimaux of Greenland, but is also employed by them for heating their winter dwellings, and, strange as it may appear to European tastes, it likewise forms one of their favourite beverages. Mr. McCulloch, however, in speaking of the oil, says, that "when extracted before putrefaction has commenced, it is beautifully transparent, free from smell, and not unpleasant in its taste."

But every part of the seal is of importance to these people. The skin not only furnishes them with the warm clothing so necessary in their climate, but provides their boats and tents with a water-proof covering, and when tanned forms a strong and serviceable

leather for their shoes. The intestines are used to form windows, curtains for the front of their tents, summer clothing, shirts, and a number of other articles; the sinews furnish them with threads to sew them together; the bones are used as tools and for the heads of spears; and the flesh forms their most important article of food. This is said to be far more palatable than that of the whale, and the fried liver is said by Scoresby to be esteemed even by Europeans "as an agreeable dish."

In fine weather the seals are very fond of basking in the sun; and vast herds of them are often seen thus engaged upon the field-ice. In these situations, which are called "seal meadows," the hunters endeavour to surprise them while sleeping, so as to intercept their attempted retreat into the water, to which, as an asylum, they always direct their course when alarmed. They are generally destroyed by knocking them on the nose with clubs, a single blow being sufficient to despatch them. The European seal-fishery has been carried on almost entirely by ships sent out every spring from Hamburg and Bremen; and some of these have captured as many as four or five thousand in one voyage. The whalers, also, frequently take to sealing, probably to make up for bad success in their regular occupation.

In their character seals exhibit many amiable points. They are affectionate to their young; and the latter, in return, are said to be most dutifully obedient to their parents; and the males fight valorously in defence of their wives and families. In confinement, especially when taken young, they are easily tamed, and then exhibit much of the attachment of a dog for their master.

There are many other species of seals, all inhabiting the seas of different parts of the world, but delighting principally in the coasts of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Some, indeed, are found in hotter climates; and one, the Monk Seal (*Phoca monachus*), represented in our illustration, is tolerably numerous in the Mediterranean. It bears a considerable resemblance in form to the common seal; but the toes of the hind feet are destitute of claws, and the animal sometimes attains a length of from ten to twelve feet. This seal is often carried about the continent of Europe in shows, and some extraordinary accounts are given of its docility; thus it has been said to pronounce words; and Aldrovand describes a specimen, probably of this species, which had been taught to utter a cry of pleasure whenever the name of a Christian prince was mentioned, but to remain perfectly still when the Grand Turk, then the terror of Europe, was named.

The largest of the northern species is the Morse or Walrus (*Trichechus rosmarus*), which is sometimes as much as twenty feet in length, and as thick in the body as an ox. The most striking peculiarity of this animal consists in a pair of formidable tusks, which hang down from the angles of the upper jaw, and are of great service to him in raising his unwieldy body out of the water, when he wishes to rest upon the ice or rocks of his Arctic abode. The walrus appears to feed, at all events in part, upon seaweeds; and a specimen, which lived for some time at St. Petersburg, was nourished on a sort of vegetable broth, of which carrots and other succulent roots formed an important part. The tusks of this animal furnish excellent ivory; and the subcutaneous fat or blubber yields a large quantity of oil; but the qualities of the meat are not so well ascertained, some voyagers describing it as excellent eating, when the prejudice arising from its dark colour had been overcome, while others have declared it to be so bad that even the dogs reject it with disgust. The walrus, which is also called the